1: Stanford U. S-4.5 1956 AF14 China AF14

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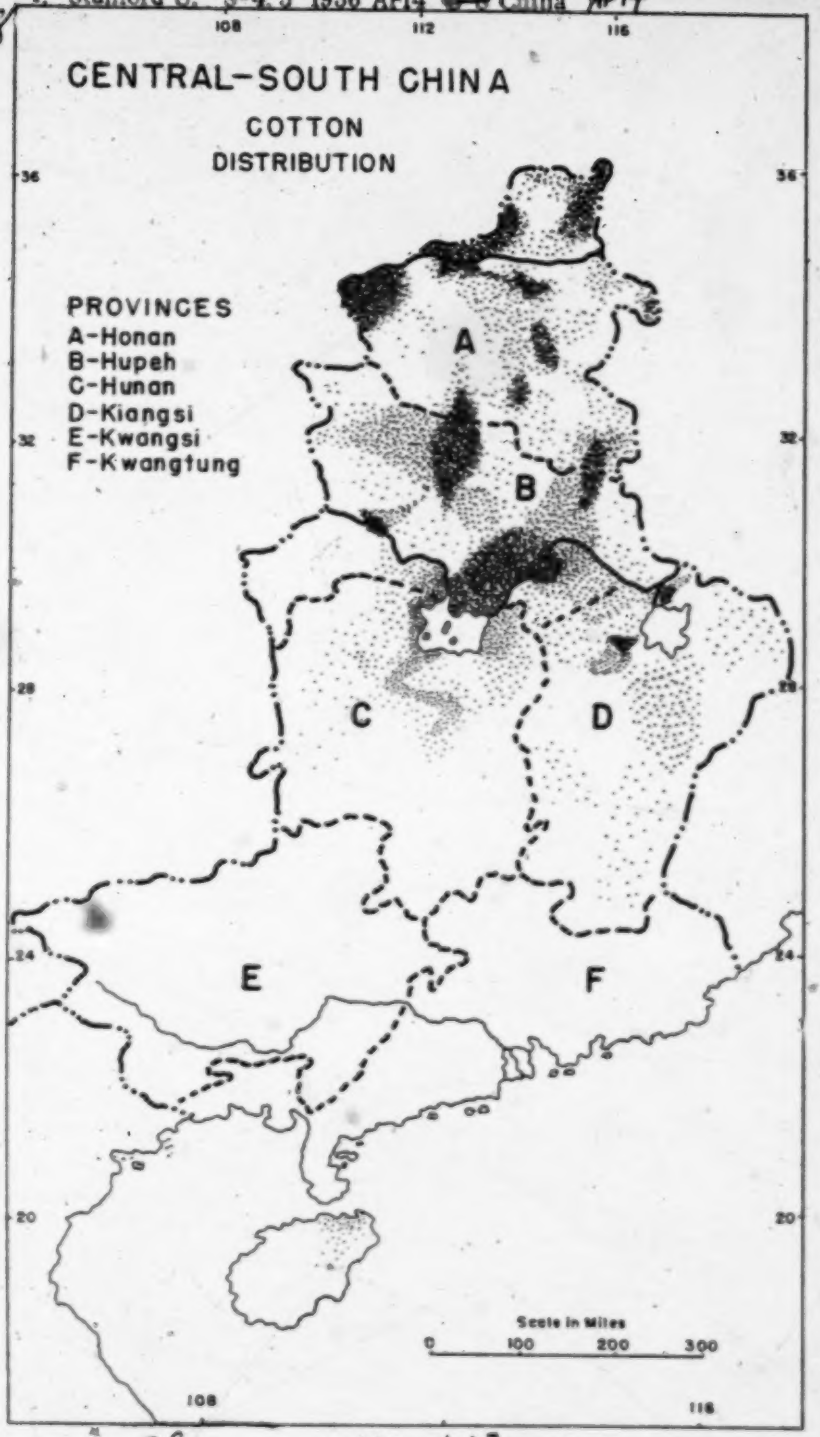

[facing p. 642 (e)]

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

D. Cotton Production

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During the five-year period (1950-54) of the Communist regime, the Communists report that a considerable effort has been made to increase the production of raw cotton in China. Since 1949, both acreage and production are reported to have increased. Table 7 illustrates the advance made during the 1949-55 period, according to Communist sources (Figures for 1951, published in Far Eastern Economic Review, a non-Communist publication, were originally derived from a Communist source). The unit is in shih-piculs with tons equivalent in parenthese below.

Table 7. RAW COTTON PRODUCTION*
(Unit: 1,000)

Year	Index	Quantity (1,000 shih-piculs)
1949	100	8,000 (484)
1950	161	14,220 (782)
1951	229	20,160 (1,109)
1952	293	25,840 (1,421)
1953	268	23,520 (1,294)
1954	274	24,094 (1,325)
1955	338	29,720 (1,634)

*Jen-min Jih-pao [People's Daily], Peking, April 1, 1953, and January 11, 1954, NCNA, November 3, 1953, and September 13 and 24, 1954. For 1953, see Far Eastern Economic Review, Hong Kong, Vol. XVIII, No. 19; May

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Table 8. Cotton Production in Central-South China*
(Unit: 1,000 shih-tan and bales)

Province	1949 shih-tan	1949 bales	1950 shih-tan	1950 bales	1951 shih-tan	1951 bales	1952 shih-tan	1952 bales	1953 shih-tan	1953 bales	1954 shih-tan	1954 bales
Honan	402.2	138	964.3	221	1,409.4	323	1,626.6	373	1,693.1	388	1,661.1	108
Hupeh	951.3	218	1,243.6	285	2,007.3	460	2,631.2	603	3,159.3	724	2,683.8	615
Hunan	139.6	32	209.4	48	576.0	132	702.5	161	488.7	112	716.6	164
Kiangsi	30.5	7	52.4	12	61.1	14	113.4	26	78.5	18	115.7	31
Kwangtung	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kwangsi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1,723.6	395	2,469.7	566	4,053.8	929	5,075.7	1,163	5,419.6	1,242	5,177.2	1,190

*Newspaper Reading Handbook, Hankow, 1950, pp. 583-85, 589, 590, 600; New China Monthly, Peking, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 915, and Vol. II, Nos. 4-6, 1950, pp. 1111-12; Yangtze Daily, Hankow, Nov. 20, 1951; Jan. 24, 1952. Preliminary estimates.

#The figure of production for 1954 is slightly higher than that of 1952, estimated by 2% increase. Far Eastern Economic Review, May 12, 1955, p. 601.

x480 pounds.

(Table 8 faces p. 667.)

(Table 8 faces p. 667.)

1:Stanford U. S-4,5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

12,, 1955. (Decline of 9% from 1952.) Ibid., p. 601. For 1954, 2% was added to 1953 figure (ibid.). For 1955, Li Hsien-nien's Report on the 1953 Budget on July 9, 1955. 248 • 433

Hupeh and Honan of the Central-South Region were considered as the two representative areas comprising the five cotton-surplus provinces of China. In order of importance, they are Hopei in North China, Shantung and Kiangsu in the East, Hupeh and Honan in the Central-South, and Shansi in the Northwest region. The Central-South contributed approximately 20-23 per cent of China's total cotton output in 1953. The statistical data for cotton production of Central-South China from 1949 to 1954 is shown in Table 8.

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Table 9. Cotton Acreage in Central-South China*
(Unit: 1,000 shih-mou and acres)

Province	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953#		1954X	
	shih-mou	acres	shih-mou	acres	shih-mou	acres	shih-mou	acres	shih-mou	acres	shih-mou	acres
Honan	2,862	477	3,876	646	3,462	577	4,266	711	9,864	1,644	11,064	1,844
Hupeh	4,920	820	5,988	998	7,632	1,272	6,906	1,151	8,286	1,381	9,486	1,581
Hunan	888	148	816	135	2,358	393	1,842	307	2,118	353	2,118	353
Kiangsi	72	12	264	44	234	39	300	50	348	58	348	58
Kwangtung	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kwangsi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8,742	1,457	10,944	1,824	13,686	2,281	13,314	2,219	20,616	3,436	23,016	3,836

*Newspaper Reading Handbook, Hankow, 1950, pp. 583-85, 589, 590, 600; Yangtze Daily, Hankow, Nov. 20, 1951; Jan. 24, 1952; New China Monthly, Peking, Vol. I, No. 4, p. 915; Vol. II, Nos. 4-5, 1950, pp. 1111-12.

#Preliminary estimates

XAbout 1,200,000 shih-mou each were added to the provinces of Honan and Hupeh in 1954, according to NCNA, Peking, March 22, 1954.

(Table 9 faces p. 668.)

(Table 9 faces p. 668.)

1: Stanford U. S-6,5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

Assuming that 1949 equals 100, the index for 1950 increased to 143; for 1951, to 235; for 1952, to 294; for 1953, to 314; and for 1954, to 323.

In terms of the acreage of cotton plantations in different provinces of the Central-South, an upward trend was marked from 1949 to 1954, as shown in Table 9.

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According to official sources, some of the factors responsible for the rapid increase both in acreage and production were the fixing of a favorable price ratio between cotton and grains and the improvement of yield per unit. Thus preferential treatment, although not consistently, was given to the cotton farmers.

Table 10. THE RATIO OF COTTON PRICE RELATIVE TO GRAIN
(In weight-units of grain to one unit of cotton lint, 7/8" grade)*

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Wheat region	7.0	8.0	7.5-8.5	6.25-7.5	6.75-8.0
Millet region	8.0	8.5	8.0-9.5	6.75-8.0	7.5-8.25
Rice region	6.5	8.5	8.0-9.0	6.75-8.0	7.25-8.25

* Newspaper Reading Handbook, Hankow, 1950, p. 574; Ching-chi Chou-pao [Economic Weekly], No. 14, Shanghai, April 1953, p. 3, and No. 21, May 8, 1953, p. 21, and NCNA, March 3, 1954.

The prices listed under "Wheat region" were in Table 10 used in Honan; those listed under "Rice region" were used in Hupeh, Kiangsi,

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Hunan, Kwangtung, and Kwangsi either for agricultural-tax payment or for purchases for consumption. The adjustment of the above parity prices has affected the upward or downward changes of acreage and production very considerably.

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Regarding the average cotton yields during the 1949-53 period, an upward trend was noticed throughout these years, except in 1953, when an average decrease of 34 per cent was marked from the yield of 1952. This was due mainly to the floods and drought in Honan, Hunan, and Kiangsi provinces during that year.

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Table 11. Cotton Yield Per Shih-Mou And Per Acre*

Province	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
	Shih-Catty per Shih-Mou	Lbs. per Acre	Shih-Catty per Shih-Mou	Lbs. per Acre	Shih-Catty per Shih-Mou	Lbs. per Acre	Shih-Catty per Shih-Mou	Lbs. per Acre	Shih-Catty per Shih-Mou	Lbs. per Acre
Honan	21.1	138.9	24.9	164.2	40.7	268.7	38.2	251.8	17.2	113.3
Hupeh	19.4	127.6	20.7	137.0	26.3	173.5	38.1	251.4	38.1	251.6
Hunan	15.7	103.8	25.6	169.4	24.4	161.2	38.2	251.7	23.1	152.3
Kiangsi	42.5	280.0	19.8	130.9	26.1	172.3	37.8	249.6	22.6	148.9
Kwangtung	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kwangsi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Average	24.6	130.1	29.4	148.9	29.4	195.5	38.1	251.6	25.2	166.5

* Newspaper Reading Handbook, Hankow, 1950, pp. 583-85, 589, 590, 600; Ch'ang Chiang-jih-pao [Yangtze Daily], Hankow, November 20, 1951 and January 24, 1952.

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1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

4. Ramie. Hunan, Hupeh, and Kiangsi provinces produce the largest amounts of ramie in Central-South China. The entire ramie output is about two million shih-tan annually. The ramie plant is adaptable to regions having a somewhat damp atmosphere and a hot summer season. Kiangsi, situated in the middle Yangtze Valley, possesses all of the requirements for successful ramie-growing. The planting area in 49 hsien of Kiangsi amounted to 146,480 shih-mou (24,413 acres) in 1934, with an output of 86,500 shih-piculs (4,758 tons). In 1935 the total area in 57 hsien decreased to 111,032 shih-mou (18,505 acres), but the output increased to 119,322 shih-piculs (6,563 tons).[26] Such a difference was due to the severe drought in the province during 1934. The yeild of ramie fibers per shih-mou of land varies greatly in accordance with the local conditions. In Chiu-chiang (Kiukiang), one shih-mou (1/6 acre) of ramie fields yields 165 catties (182 pounds) of ramie fiber, and in Ihuang, as much as 300 catties (363 pounds).[27] Only a small portion of ramie was consumed locally in making native products, grass-linen and fish nets. The larger portion is usually shipped to other provinces and exported abroad, especially to Japan for making fish nets. In

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26. Bureau of Foreign Trade, Chinese Economic Journal, Vol. XIX, No. 6, Shanghai, December 1936, pp. 646-48.

27. Ibid., p. 649.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

Hunan and Hupeh, ramie is also produced in comparatively large quantities, but the production data are not available. Liu-yang and Li-ling in Hunan Province are two of the places where ramie is made into grass-linen cloth.

VI. FISHERIES OF CENTRAL-SOUTH

Central-South China has abundant fresh and salt water fisher resources. The province of Kwangtung within the Pearl River Valley, and including Hainan Island, markets more fish than any other province of the region. Within the three-year period from 1950 to 1953, the Central People's Government has introducted a series of measures to support the fishing enterprises of this region. A fishery loan of over 53,000,000,000 Yuan ($2,200,000) is claimed to have been distributed throughout the province to help the fishermen to repair their boats, mend their nets, and purchase more gear. Ten large fishery markets were established in fishery centers such as Canton and Chungshan to stabilize the prices and to do away with exploitation by middlemen.[28] In 1950, the abundant catch of fish from the fishing banks of Tongking Bay alone was the largest in twenty-five years, yielding an

28. Current Background, Hong Kong, U S. Consulate General, March 1, 1954, No. 281, p. 15.